

Fish Use of Stream Drainage Basins in the City of Bellevue

April 2009

Background and Data Sources

Current knowledge of the species of fish in Bellevue's streams and their distribution is based on stream typing work conducted in the summer of 2001 (The Watershed Company 2001) that involved assessing culverts as to whether fish could pass upstream and electrofishing; an electrofishing survey conducted at five sites in the Kelsey Creek basin in 2007 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data) and fish moved prior to sediment removal from two sediment ponds along Coal Creek (The Watershed Company 2007a); salmon spawning surveys conducted annually during the fall between 2001 and 2008 (Taylor Associates 2002; The Watershed Company 2003, 2004, 2005, 2006, 2007b, 2009); and peamouth surveys and spawning observations conducted by Bellevue staff and volunteers between the late 1990s and 2008 (City of Bellevue, unpublished data). Lake Washington shore use by warm water fish was documented by Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife in June of 2005 (Personal Communication, Chad Jackson, July 18, 2007). Fish use of the lake shore along Lake Sammamish has not been documented by the City of Bellevue.

Yarrow Creek Basin

Historically, Yarrow Creek (08-0252) supported coho salmon (Williams et al. 1975) and cutthroat trout. Both migratory and resident cutthroat likely used the stream, along with coho. Yarrow Creek may also have been used by one or both races of native Lake Washington kokanee. Because kokanee were an important subsistence resource for Native Americans during the 1800s, they often located their villages near important resources. Such a village was located at Yarrow Bay (Buerge 1984; Tobin & Pendergrass 1993 [updated 1997]).

In a 2001 survey, cutthroat trout were found within the entire portion of the main channel of Yarrow Creek within City of Bellevue limits. Cutthroat trout also inhabit the tributary flowing north of Northup Way along NE 33rd Place. Fish were not found in the other tributaries. However, the habitat characteristics in the tributary originating near 108th Ave. NE were suitable for fish use. Other tributaries lacked sufficient flow to allow fish use, except possibly during high flow events.

See Bellevue's Basin Fact Sheet main web page for additional fish use information for Bellevue streams.

References Cited

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